

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2586, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. STEARNS OF FLORIDA**

At the end of subtitle E of title X (page 307, after line 20), insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. ____.** **SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING CONTINUED**
2 **UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO RESTOR-**
3 **ING LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE MEMORIAL,**
4 **MARNES LA-COGUETTE, FRANCE.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Lafayette Escadrille, an aviation
7 squadron within the French Lafayette Flying Corps,
8 was formed April 16, 1916.

9 (2) The Lafayette Escadrille consisted of avi-
10 ators from the United States who volunteered to
11 fight for the people of France during World War I.

12 (3) 265 volunteers from the United States
13 served in the Lafayette Flying Corps, completing
14 3,000 combat sorties and amassing nearly 200 vic-
15 tories.

16 (4) The Lafayette Escadrille won 4 Legions of
17 Honor, 7 Medailles Militaires, and 31 citations, each
18 with a Croix de Guerre.

19 (5) In 1918, command of the Lafayette Esca-
20 drille was transferred to the United States, where



1 the Lafayette Escadrille became the combat air force
2 of the United States.

3 (6) In 1921, a Franco-American committee was
4 organized to locate a final resting place for the 68
5 United States aviators who lost their lives flying for
6 France during World War I.

7 (7) The Lafayette Escadrille Memorial was
8 dedicated on July 4, 1928, in honor of all United
9 States aviators who flew for France during World
10 War I.

11 (8) The Lafayette Escadrille Memorial Founda-
12 tion, located in the United States and in France,
13 was founded by Nelson Cromwell in 1930 and en-
14 dowed with a \$1,500,000 trust for the maintenance
15 and upkeep of the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial.

16 (9) Environmental conditions have contributed
17 to structural damage to, and the overall degradation
18 of, the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial, preventing
19 the holding of memorial services inside the crypt.

20 (10) The French Government has pledged
21 funds to support a restoration of the Lafayette Es-
22 cadrille Memorial.

23 (11) The Lafayette Escadrille Memorial should
24 be restored to its original beauty to honor all the
25 United States aviators who flew for France during



1 World War I and to demonstrate the respect of the
2 United States for the sacrifices made by all Ameri-
3 cans who have served our Nation and our allies.

4 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that the United States should continue to honor its
6 commitment to the United States aviators who lost their
7 lives flying for France during World War I by appro-
8 priating sufficient funds to restore the Lafayette Esca-
9 drille Memorial in Marnes La-Coguette, France.

